

Claims

1. A method of producing a masonry structure, said method including the steps of:
selecting or producing a masonry product having one or more face surfaces with a reactivity equivalent to a wet out area of approx 1 to 5 square inches (6 to 34 square centimetres) by the Wet Area Method as hereinbefore defined or within approx 10 to 60 seconds by the Total Absorption Method as hereinbefore defined;
constructing a structure with said masonry product so that said face surfaces form an exposed surface;
applying a tinting composition by a single application to the exposed surface of said masonry product, such that said tinting composition colours said exposed surface and maintains a look, feel or texture of the masonry product.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of constructing said structure includes the laying of said masonry product in a stonework or brickwork fashion, with a mortar joint between adjacent individual masonry products.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said mortar used is of the same or similar reactivity to a face surface of said masonry product.
4. A method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein said mortar is struck so that it is finished flush with a face surface of said masonry product.
5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein said masonry product and said mortar are both tinted with said composition.
6. A method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein said mortar is struck so that it is recessed relative to a face surface of said masonry product.
7. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein only said masonry product is coloured with said composition.
8. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said mortar used does not have the defined reactivity when compared to said masonry product and will not absorb said composition.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said mortar is struck so that it is finished flush with, or proud of an exposed face of said masonry product.
10. A method as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein said masonry product and said mortar are both coloured with said composition, with said mortar being further processed to remove said composition which has not been absorbed.

11. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein said masonry product is a clay brick which is produced by means of applying a slurry at least to those surfaces of said brick which will be exposed when in the structure to be built from said brick, said slurry being fired with said clay brick in a kiln.
12. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said slurry is composed of water, fireclay, calgon or surfactant, glass cullet or other fluxes, or clay suspension sources such as shales.
13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said slurry also includes dried fine sand.
14. A method of coating a masonry structure, said method including the steps of:
testing reactivity of a masonry product as used in said masonry structure; if the reactivity of the exposed surfaces of the masonry structure is the equivalent of a wet out area of approx 1 to 5 square inches (6 to 34 square centimetres) by the Wet Area Method as hereinbefore defined or within approx 10 to 60 seconds by the Total Absorption Method as hereinbefore defined; applying a tinting composition by a single application to the exposed surface of said masonry product, such that said tinting composition colours said exposed surface and maintains a look, feel or texture of the masonry product.
15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said masonry product and a mortar joint between adjacent masonry products are both coloured with said composition.
16. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein a masonry joint between adjacent masonry products is not reactive enough to absorb said composition, but has said composition applied thereto, with said mortar being washed clean to remove said composition which has not been absorbed.
17. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein said method includes the step of modifying the reactivity of the exposed surfaces of said masonry product as used in said structure, so that the reactivity thereof is as defined in claim 14.
18. A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein said step of modifying the reactivity includes one or more of the following: pre-coating with a mineral paint; the use of absorbent sands in a concrete mix; the use of light cement or acid etching or washing of the surface.
19. A method of producing a masonry unit, said method including the steps of:
selecting or producing a masonry product having one or more face surfaces with a reactivity equivalent to a wet out area of approx 1 to 5 square inches (6 to 34 square centimetres) by the Wet Area Method as hereinbefore defined or within approx 10 to 60

seconds by the Total Absorption Method as hereinbefore defined;
applying a tinting composition by a single application to the exposed surface of said unit, such that said tinting composition colours said exposed surface and maintains a look, feel or texture of the masonry product.

20. A method as claimed in any one of claim 19, wherein said masonry unit is a clay brick which is produced by means of applying a slurry at least to those surfaces of said brick which will be exposed when in the structure to be built from said brick, said slurry being fired with said clay brick in a kiln.
21. A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said slurry is composed of water, fireclay, calgon or surfactant, glass cullet or other fluxes, or clay suspension sources such as shales.
22. A method as claimed in claim 20 or 21, wherein said slurry also includes dried fine sand.
23. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said masonry unit has the requisite reactivity after firing or setting without application of a slurry or pre-treatment.
24. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said masonry unit is first pre-treated by means of one or more of the following: pre-coating with a mineral paint; the use of absorbent sands in a concrete mix; the use of light cement or acid etching or washing of the surface.
25. A method as claimed in any one of claims 19 to 24, wherein multiple ones of said masonry units, or batches of said masonry units have said tinting composition applied to exposed faces thereof in a single application pass.
26. A masonry structure being produced by the method of any one of claims 1 to 13.
27. A masonry structure having been coated by the method of any one of claims 14 to 18.
28. A masonry unit having been produced by the method of any one of claims 19 to 25.
29. A masonry structure being produced by a method as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying examples.
30. A masonry structure having been coated by a method as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying examples..
31. A masonry unit having been produced by a method as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying examples.